

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A wireless network system that enables direct wireless delivery of a multimedia message from a first multimedia messaging service (MMS) user agent to a second MMS user agent, the system comprising:

5 means for receiving, from the first MMS user agent, a request to send a multimedia message to the second MMS user agent, the request including an identification (ID) number of the second MMS user agent;

means for obtaining an Internet address of the second MMS user agent based on the ID number of the second MMS user agent, if the ID number is not an
10 Internet address of the second MMS user agent; and

means for forwarding the obtained Internet address to the first MMS user agent to enable the first MMS user agent to wirelessly deliver the multimedia message directly to the second MMS user agent using the obtained Internet address.

15 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the obtaining means includes:

means for sending the ID number to a core network; and

means for obtaining the Internet address of the second MMS user agent from the core network.

20 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the identification number is a mobile station international ISDN number (MSISDN).

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the obtaining means includes:

means for sending the MSISDN to a core network,

means for obtaining an international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) address corresponding to the MSISDN from the core network,

means for sending the obtained IMSI address to the core network, and

means for obtaining the Internet address corresponding to the IMSI from the

5 core network.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein:

the MSISDN is sent to a home location register (HLR) in the core network;

the IMSI address is obtained from the HLR;

the obtained IMSI is sent to a user database in the core network; and

10 the Internet address is obtained from the user database.

6. The system of claim 1, the wireless network system is implemented in an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.

7. A wireless network system for enabling direct wireless delivery of a multimedia message from a first multimedia messaging service (MMS) user agent

15 located in a first multimedia messaging service environment (MMSE) to a second MMS user agent located in a second MMSE, the system comprising:

a first MMS server located in the first MMSE; and

a second MMS server located in the second MMSE;

wherein the first MMS server includes:

means for receiving, from the first MMS user agent, a request to send a multimedia message to the second MMS user agent, the request including an identification (ID) number of the second MMS user agent, and

means for forwarding the request to the second MMS server;

5 wherein the second MMS server includes:

means for obtaining an Internet address of the second MMS user agent based on the ID number of the second MMS user agent, if the ID number is not an Internet address of the second MMS user agent;

10 means for forwarding the obtained Internet address of the second MMS user agent to the first MMS server;

wherein the first MMS server forwards the obtained Internet address received from the second MMS server to the first MMS user agent to enable the first MMS user agent to wirelessly deliver the multimedia message directly to the second MMS user agent using the obtained Internet address.

15 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the obtaining means of the second MMS server includes:

means for sending the ID number to a core network of a wireless network system, and

20 means for obtaining the Internet address of the second MMS user agent from the core network.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the identification number is a mobile station international ISDN number (MSISDN).

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the obtaining means includes:

means for sending the MSISDN to a core network of a wireless network system,

5 means for receiving an international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) address corresponding to the MSISDN from the core network,

means for sending the received IMSI address to the core network, and

means for receiving the Internet address corresponding to the IMSI from the core network.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein:

10 the MSISDN is sent to a home location register (HLR) in the core network;

the IMSI address is received from the HLR;

the IMSI is sent to a user database in the core network; and

the Internet address is received from the user database.

12. The system of claim 7, the wireless network system is implemented in

15 an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.

13. A method for enabling direct wireless delivery of a multimedia message from a first multimedia messaging service (MMS) user agent to a second MMS user agent, the method comprising the steps of:

20 (a) receiving from the first MMS user agent a request to send a multimedia message to the second MMS user agent, the request including an identification (ID) number of the second MMS user agent;

(b) obtaining an Internet address of the second MMS user agent based on the ID number of the second MMS user agent, if the ID number is not an Internet address of the second MMS user agent; and

(c) forwarding the obtained Internet address to the first MMS user agent to enable the first MMS user agent to wirelessly deliver the multimedia message directly to the second MMS user agent using the obtained Internet address.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein step (b) includes:

sending the ID number to a core network of a wireless network system; and

obtaining the Internet address of the second MMS user agent from the core

10 network.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the identification number is a mobile station international ISDN number (MSISDN).

16. The method of claim 15, wherein step (b) includes:

(i) sending the MSISDN to a core network of a wireless network system,

15 (ii) obtaining an international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) address corresponding to the MSISDN from the core network,

(iii) sending the obtained IMSI address to the core network, and

(iv) obtaining the Internet address corresponding to the IMSI from the core network.

20 17. The method of claim 16, wherein:

at step (i) the MSISDN is sent to a home location register (HLR) in the core network;

at step (ii) the IMSI address is obtained from the HLR;

at step (iii) the IMSI is sent to a user database in the core network; and

5 at step (iv) the Internet address is obtained from the user database.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein the method is implemented in an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.

19. A method for enabling direct wireless delivery of a multimedia message from a first multimedia messaging service (MMS) user agent located in a first multimedia messaging service environment (MMSE) to a second MMS user agent located in a second MMSE, the method comprising the steps of:

15 (a) receiving, by a first MMS server located in the first MMSE, from the first MMS user agent a request to send a multimedia message to the second MMS user agent, the request including an identification (ID) number of the second MMS user agent;

(b) forwarding the request to a second MMS server located in the second MMSE;

20 (c) obtaining, by the second MMS server, an Internet address of the second MMS user agent based on the ID number of the second MMS user agent, if the ID number is not an Internet address of the second MMS user agent;

(d) forwarding, by the second MMS server, the obtained Internet address of the second MMS user agent to the first MMS server; and

(e) forwarding, by the first MMS server, the obtained Internet address to the first MMS user agent to enable the first MMS user agent to wirelessly deliver the multimedia message directly to the second MMS user agent using the obtained Internet address.

5 20. The method of claim 19, wherein step (c) includes:

sending the ID number to a core network of a wireless network system; and
obtaining the Internet address of the second MMS user agent from the core network.

10 21. The method of claim 19, wherein the identification number is a mobile station international ISDN number (MSISDN).

22. The method of claim 21, wherein step (c) includes:

(i) sending the MSISDN to a core network of a wireless network system,
(ii) receiving an international mobile subscriber identity (IMSI) address corresponding to the MSISDN from the core network,
15 (iii) sending the received IMSI address to the core network, and
(iv) receiving the Internet address corresponding to the IMSI from the core network.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein:

20 at step (i) the MSISDN is sent to a home location register (HLR) in the core network;

at step (ii) the IMSI address is received from the HLR;

at step (iii) the IMSI is sent to a user database in the core network; and

at step (iv) the Internet address is received from the user database.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the method is implemented in an Internet Protocol (IP) based network.